

number PCT/GB99/02658, filed August 12, 1999, which claims priority to application serial number GB9910522.3, filed May 6, 1999, and GB9817566.4, filed August 12, 1998.

- 2) On page 12, replace the paragraph at lines 10-11 with the following replacement paragraph:

The five BLAST programs available on the World Wide Web at ncbi.nlm.nih.gov perform the following tasks:

- 3) On page 13, replace the paragraph at lines 20-28 with the following replacement paragraph:

FILTER Mask off segments of the query sequence that have low compositional complexity, as determined by the SEG program of Wootton & Federhen (1993) Computers and Chemistry 17:149-163, or segments consisting of short-periodicity internal repeats, as determined by the XNU program of Claverie & States (1993) Computers and Chemistry 17:191-201, or, for BLASTN, by the DUST program of Tatusov and Lipman (unpublished, but available on the World Wide Web at ncbi.nlm.nih.gov). Filtering can eliminate statistically significant but biologically uninteresting reports from the blast output (e.g., hits against common acidic-, basic- or proline-rich regions), leaving the more biologically interesting regions of the query sequence available for specific matching against database sequences.

In the Claims

Please replace claims 8-10, 16, 28 and 31-34 with amended claims 8-10, 16, 28 and 31-34 as follows:

8. (Twice Amended) A nucleic acid encoding a 5'OT-EST polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of (a) the sequences set forth in any one of SEQ ID Nos. 2, 4, or 6, and (b) sequences which are at least 90% homologous, as determined